

[Letter from Woody Guthrie to Alan Lomax, June 7, 1942]

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330 West 11 Street, Apartment 14 New York City, N.Y. June 7th, 1942 c/o Almanac Singers

Hello Alan and Everybody:

While out west a few months ago, I found an old notebook full of my songs. One of the relatives rustled it from under a pile or two of junk. It contains in the neighborhood of 200 songs, mostly written in pen and ink. It should be there in the library. I sung from the book on the air in Los Angeles.

There are all kinds of things written down around the songs, along the margins and at the bottom of the pages. I feel like I'm wearing the book out lugging it around with me, and would like to see it filed away there in the library.

Another later book I have contains all of the later songs that I've cropped and sharecropped. Of course there are lots of songs in these books that you didn't get to hear nor record, and there are all kinds of them.

I would like to make a deal with the library to file my original copies of these two books, and make me some typed copies as we did in the other book they copied there.

The way things are, I feel that if I lose the only copies I have of these books, they're just long gone. But I could sleep better, eat better, sing louder, and run faster, if I knew these songbooks was stuck in a pigo?on hole down there, and I had good neat typed copies of them.

Library of Congress

How is your sister Bess cadliaccing? I meant cadilaccing. Best I ever done was some pontiaccing. How's the war spirit out there in Washington? High, I hope. I hope everybody's back of me and Harry Bridges and Joe Curran and Franklin D., in this fight to plow Hitler under.

If you make a deal to file these books away and send me typed copies as last time, please make the change from onion skin paper over to something a little stiffer; because singing from these books on radio stations, your paper has got to stand up on a rack which limber paper wont do but stiff paper will if the government aint running too short on stiff paper if you get the general drift of what I'm getting at.

Same as ever, With a few changes.

Woody Guthrie

Woody guthrie 6-7-'42